

State of California
Department of Water Resources
State Water Resources Control Board
Department of Health Services

RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCE
CONDENSED SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS
(As approved during the January 10, 2003 meeting)

The Recycled Water Task Force Top 13 Issues and Associated Recommendations:

1. Increase State funding for water recycling beyond Proposition 50 and other current sources.
2. Expand funding sources to include sustainable State funding for research.
3. Adopt less burdensome regulatory mechanisms affecting incidental runoff of recycled water from irrigation impoundments.
4. Engage the public in an active dialogue using a community value-based decision-making model in planning water recycling projects.
5. Establish leadership support for water recycling through greater integration of state and local policies regarding water recycling to include convening an independent statewide review panel to address issues related to indirect potable reuse.
6. Create uniform interpretation of state standards in state and county regulatory programs.
7. Adopt a California version of Appendix J of the Uniform Plumbing Code thereby providing regulatory consistency for indoor use of recycled water.
8. Adopt legislation to increase local flexibility to regulate water softeners.
9. Convene a statewide panel to recommend curricula changes to public schools and to institutions of higher education.
10. Prepare Department of Health Services guidance that would clarify regulations pertaining primarily to dual plumbed buildings and amend the regulations to be consistent with requirements of the proposed version of Appendix J to be adopted in the California Plumbing Code.
11. Encourage an integrated academic program on one or more campuses for water reuse research and education to generate well-educated practitioners on water recycling production, quality, and use.
12. Develop a uniform method for analyzing the economic benefits and costs of projects and guidance to assist in conducting economic feasibility analyses that could be used by project planners and funding agencies.
13. Develop a statewide media campaign to increase public awareness and knowledge of water issues including recycled water.

Additional Important Recycled Water Task Force Issues and Associated Recommendations:

14. Recommend not reconvening the statewide science-based panel to address indirect potable reuse. However, as part of Issue 5, it is recommended to convene an independent panel on indirect potable reuse to ensure adequate safety and assurance for California residents.
15. Encourage local agencies to perform economic analyses (quantifying total benefits and costs) of water recycling projects in addition to financial analyses; and include such analyses as two of the funding criteria in state and federal funding programs.
16. Develop a revised funding procedure to provide local agencies with assistance in potential State and federal funding opportunities.
17. Established a Water Recycling Funding Coordination Committee to coordinate applicant's funding needs with the appropriate funding agencies.
18. Present information on funding availability through workshops, conferences and on the Internet.
19. Expand funding sources to include sustainable State funding for Department of Water Resources' technical assistance and research.
20. Provide funding agencies with the resources to perform comprehensive analysis of past recycling performance (costs and benefits) and projection of future performance.
21. Conduct various measures to improve the administration and compliance with local and state permits, including providing Department of Health Services guidance, dissemination of information by Association of California Water Agencies and California Association of Sanitation Agencies, and concurrent development of basin plans and permits by State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards.
22. Maintain strong source control programs and increase public awareness of their importance in reducing pollution and ensuring a safe recycled water supply.
23. Housing and Community Development Department should submit a code change to remove the requirement for the skull and crossbones symbol in Sections 601.2.2 and 601.2.3 of the California Plumbing Code.
24. Support a thorough assessment of the risk associated with cross-connections between disinfected tertiary recycled water and potable water. The risk assessment would provide a scientific basis for regulations controlling potential cross-connections.
25. Encourage stakeholders to review the Department of Health Services draft changes of the Title 17 Cross-connection Control requirements and comment as appropriate.